

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: DIAAP

Rewrtm /Capt Stahl/79773/mw/1Nov62

1 NOV 1962

000231

SUBJECT: (X) Data on USSR Build Up in Cuba

TO: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

1. The following is in reply to your Memorandum CM-73-62, subject as above, dated 30 October 1962.

2. Examination of shipping intelligence shows conclusively that the latest, and major, phase of the Soviet military build up began in mid-July. In the period 15 July - 1 August, arrivals of Soviet ships in Cuban ports averaged about one a day, as compared to an arrival average of about four a week prior to that date. The density of shipping build up to 43 arrivals in August; 50 in September and 35 in the period 1 - 22 October. A significant aspect was that 14 Soviet passenger ships docked in Cuba during the period 15 July - 22 October, as contrasted to only two arrivals in the two-year period immediately preceding 15 July. It was also noted that most Soviet ships involved in arms deliveries utilized some forms of deception (false declaration of cargo/destination); and that their trips were generally characterized by light loading, short stay in Cuban ports, and return to home port in ballast. For detailed data see Attachment 1.

3. Specific pegpoints, therefore, which are considered indicators of future reoccurrence of Soviet military activity to Cuba are:

- a. Increase in shipping.
- b. Unusual deck cargoes.
- c. Light loading.
- d. False declaration of cargo and destination.
- e. Radio silence.
- f. Rapid turn around.
- g. Returning in ballast.

Copies 2 of 2 Copies

Page 1 of 2 Pages

Encl 7

4. It is estimated that a total of 17 dry cargo ships (about 10,000 DWT) would be required to outload all known critical, specialized components of offensive missile systems now known to be in Cuba, as well as the BEAGLE/IL-28 jet light bombers, FISHBED/MIG-21 aircraft and Komar guided missile boats. Such loading assumes a Soviet expedited program utilizing the most readily available ships, deck loading of the major items of equipment, and abandonment in Cuba of such non-essential items as general purpose trucks, pre-fabricated huts, missile check-out tents, etc. A breakout of the ships required is contained in Attachment 2.

5. Two tankers, one passenger ship, one ore carrier, one factory ship, and 12 dry cargo ships are currently believed to be in Cuban waters. (Attachment 3).

#### 4 Atch

1. Data on USSR Build-up in Cuba
2. Ships Required
3. Sov Ships Believed in Cuban Waters
4. ~~Photograph of Sov ship~~  
~~BRVNOGORSK~~

## ATTACHMENT 1

### DATA ON USSR BUILDUP IN CUBA

A review of Soviet shipping to Cuba provides clear indication that the current buildup was accelerated from about the middle of July. Prior to 15 July, Soviet dry cargo ships were calling at Cuban ports at an average rate of 7 to 8 ships per two week period and a total of only 2 Soviet passenger ships had called at Cuba since 1960. However, during the period 15 July to 1 August 1962, Soviet ships arriving at Cuban ports totalled 11 dry cargo and 4 passenger ships, or 15 total.

This increase of Soviet shipping activity continued until the declaration of the quarantine, as indicated by the following statistics:

August:	37 Dry Cargo;	6 Passenger;	Total 43
September:	46 Dry Cargo;	4 Passenger;	Total 50
1-22 October:	31 Dry Cargo;	4 Passenger;	Total 35
En Route:	16 Dry Cargo;	0 Passenger;	Total 16

In addition, several unique procedures were noted which were common to most of the ships involved and which are regarded as being indicative of Soviet arms deliveries. These included:

- a. False declarations as to cargo and/or destination.
- b. Unusually light loading.
- c. Unusually short stay at destination.
- d. Return to home waters in ballast.
- e. Unusual deck cargoes (in some cases)
- f. Possible radio silence in the case of one or two passenger ships.

During this period (13 July - 22 October) the activity of Soviet tankers and Satellite ships remained at a level reasonably consistent with that observed earlier in 1962. Free world shipping to Cuba appeared to drop off in amounts roughly equivalent to the increased Soviet shipping. A large proportion of this drop, however, is attributed to a fall-off in the sugar trade. Accordingly, no valid indicators for future use can be derived from the recent activities of Soviet tankers, Satellite nor Free World shipping.

The initial increase in Soviet dry cargo and passenger ship activity was detected by the intelligence community and subjected to continuous close scrutiny.

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Page 2 of 2 Pages

SHIPS REQUIRED

## ATTACHMENT 2

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Ships Required</u>	<u>Location on Ship</u>	<u>No. of Ships on Space Compatibility Basis</u>	<u>Cumulative Total Total Ships 1/ Required</u>
33	SS-4 Missiles & Transporters	9	Deck 2/ 3/	9	9
24	Launch Stands	1	'Tween Decks	Included in above 9	9
48	Fuel Trailers	2 1/2	Lower Hold	Included in above 9	9
96	Oxidizer Trailers	4	Lower Hold	Included in above 9	9
24	Erectors	4	Deck	Four additional ships	13
72	Check-out Vans	2 1/2	Lower Hold	Included in above 13	13
20	IL-28 (3 per ship)	8	Deck	Included in above 13	13
12	Komar MTB's (2 per ship on last four ships plus 1 ship at 4 per ship)	5	Deck	One additional ship	14
39	MIG 39 at 13/ship	3	Deck	Three additional ships	17 1/2

NOTES:

- 1/ - Above are estimates based on an average dry cargo vessel of approximately 8650 Cargo Dead Weight tons (10,300 DWT) similar to the DIVERGORSK.
- 2/ - Considerable preparation in the form of on-deck wooden cribbing would be required to handle the deck loads.
- 3/ - Limiting factor is deck space, i.e., the total number of ships is dictated by deck space required.
- 4/ - If additional offensive weapons are identified, this total will have to be proportionately increased.

0036-62

Page 2 of 2

Copy 1 of 1

## ATTACHMENT 3

SOVIET SHIPS BELIEVED IN OCEAN WATERS

L. KORSOMOL

Trucks on deck.

Departed  
Baltic  
10/8/62

Havana  
10/21/62

Associated with  
military cargo

M. ANOSOV

2706 T general.  
12 trucks, 1 trailer,  
1 flatbed carrier, 2  
possible Guideline  
propellant transporters,  
2 crane shovels, 13  
crates on deck; Suspect  
arms carrier.

Departed Odessa  
10/7/62. Declared  
for Conakry, Guinea.

M. FESTIVAL

10,200 T benzene

Departed  
Tuspe  
10/2/62

Havana  
10/21/62  
Nuevitas  
10/24/62  
Havana  
10/26/62

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Page 5 of 26 Pages

**ALESANDROVSK**

Unknown

**ALAPAYEVSK**

31 trucks 2 with  
unknown crated  
cargo

**ALMETTEVSK**

Unknown

Departed  
Murmansk  
prior to  
10/6/62

Departed  
Baltic

Departed  
Baltic  
prior to  
10/7/62

Probably  
Isabella area  
10/23/62

Unknown Cuban  
port  
10/18/62

Probably  
Isabella area  
10/231400Z

**AMATA**

15 cylindrical  
tanks and 2  
tractors on deck

**BAUSKA**

Unknown, probably  
POL (tanker)

**BRATSK**

Unknown

Departed  
Baltic  
9/29/62

Departed Ventspils  
or Klaipeda  
9/29/62

Departed  
Baltic  
10/4/62

Unknown  
Coben port  
10/16/62

Havens  
10/24/62  
Musvitas  
10/24/62  
(may have departed  
Haben waters)

Havens  
10/21/62

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Page 43 of 46 Pages

**DIVNOGORSEK**

2020 T autos;  
suspect arms  
carrier

**BURMO**

1630 T general;  
suspect arms  
carrier

**F. KURCHATOV**

22 liquid storage  
tanks and 12  
trucks on deck in-  
cluding a GUIDELINE  
system propellant  
transport truck.

Departed Odessa  
10/7/62  
Declared for  
Mediterranean  
for orders

Departed Odessa  
10/5/62. Declared  
for Havana.

Departed Baltic  
prior to 10/15/62

Havana  
10/21/62

Cienfuegos  
10/24/62

Havana  
10/22/62

Advised 3 days  
to off-load on  
arrival (Normal  
time 48 hrs)  
Indicates unusual  
cargo

**I. POLKUNOV**

Cars, canned goods, geological prospecting equipment, farm implements. 11 Army trucks on deck.

Departed  
Leningrad  
10/3/62

Havana  
10/21/62  
Santiago  
10/22/62

**KURA**

1638 T canned goods; Suspect arms carrier (Factory ship)

Departed  
Odessa 9/6/62,  
Declared for  
Cuba

Havana  
9/25/62

After unloading in Cuba, to go Corskry in ballast to load bananas for Odessa.

**LABINSKY**

1370 T general cargo. 7 crates, 6 vans, 30 drums, and 2 motor launches (30 ft) on deck; Suspect arms carrier.

Departed Odessa  
9/30/62, Declared  
for Corskry, Guinea

Havana  
10/18/62

**NICOLAYEVSK**

Passengers seen  
on deck  
(Passenger ship)

**VIRNITSA**

9,000 T fuel oil  
(Tanker)

**VOLGOLES**

8 trucks, 4  
cylindrical tanks,  
5 probable heli-  
copter crates and  
9 other crates, 5  
of which have un-  
identified devices  
in them.

Departed Baltic  
prior to 10/14/62

Departed Odessa  
10/5/62

Departed Baltic  
prior to 10/6/62

Unknown Cuban  
port 10/23/62

Havana  
10/25/62

Havana  
10/19/62

Message intercept  
revealed the ship  
was to commence  
unidentified "work"  
at 270100Z.